



Published at the direction of the

LEGISLATIVE ETHICS BOARD

PO Box 40482 • Olympia WA 98504-0482 • Phone (360) 786-7540 • www.leg.wa.gov/LEB

ETHICS ALERT

January – 2010

Opinion on a pending bill, posted on legislative blog, was not an ethics violation.

Board cites several opinions upholding ability of a legislator to use public resources to express opinion on bills and to do so in a partisan fashion. Complaint Opinion 2009 – No. 2

Limitation on number of links from a legislator's campaign website to legislative websites is removed.

The Board overturned that portion of Advisory Opinion 2000 – No. 2 which had limited the number of links. The timely removal (June 30 in an election year) of discretionary material identified in that opinion is still required. Advisory Opinion 2009 – No. 1

Change in law allowing more electronic newsletters/updates in an election year requires constituents on your mailing list to indicate they want to receive them.

Efforts continue to help ensure legislator and staff compliance with what has been commonly referred to as the "opt-in" requirement established by the Legislature. List compilation and retention methods can vary and you are encouraged to contact the Designated Ethics Advisers or Board Counsel with any questions about the requirement that these electronic mailing lists consist only of those constituents who have said "yes" to the receipt of these newsletters or updates.

2010 Ethics Manuals have been published. The Board reduced the number of manuals available in the 4.25x11 format due to cost. Most of the new manuals have been published in a less expensive 8.5x11 format. If you haven't received a copy please contact the Board at 786-7540 or e-mail oconnell_mi@leg.wa.gov.

The Board published five opinions in 2009

The full text of all opinions, beginning in 1995, together with a brief summary of each can be found at www.leg.wa.gov/leb